

Fifteen: I Believe, Help My Unbelief

Scripture: Mark 9:24

Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!

Cast

- **Tyler** — A skeptical teen who questions faith openly, using humor to shield uncertainty.
- **Ava** — A devout and earnest peer who defends belief passionately but struggles with doubt.
- **Jacob** — A quiet friend who hasn’t made up his mind, but listens carefully and learns to speak up.
- **Rev. Martin** — The associate pastor and study leader. Kind, patient, honest about his own struggles with faith.
- **Ashley** — The youth group leader in name only, seeing her role as an obligation rather than a calling.

Synopsis

An after-hours youth group session becomes a safe but challenging space to explore faith, doubt, and questions that don’t have easy answers. Tyler’s sharp doubts provoke discomfort. Ava, certain but untested, is forced to reckon with not knowing everything. Jacob quietly begins to share his own hesitations. Rev. Martin opens up about nearly leaving ministry, modeling that faith can make space for questions. By the end, no one has all the answers—but they sit together, held by grace.

Scene 1: Do I Have to Believe You?

An evening Bible study opens with Rev. Martin reading the story of the boy’s father who cries, “*I do believe; help my unbelief!*” Each teen responds in their own way. Ava shares her belief in faith’s power to transform, citing the mustard seed story. Ashley argues the father in the story was weak and second-guessed God. Tyler shares a painful story about a devout friend who died despite praying for healing, admitting he inherited faith like furniture from his family. Jacob listens quietly, admitting he relates to Tyler but isn’t ready to give up on belief entirely.

Scene 2: You Are writing Your Own History Book?

A week later, Rev. Martin tries to lighten the mood by suggesting they practice *The Old Rugged Cross* for church. Tyler jokes it’d be easier to believe if Jesus played a steel guitar, setting Jacob off in laughter with an air guitar solo. Ava is hurt by their irreverence. Ashley scolds them but also dismisses the meeting’s purpose as stale. As the group trades biting jokes about faith, Santa, and sermons, Ava demands to know why Tyler and Jacob even bother coming. Jacob snaps that they complete the quartet (bad singing and all). Rev. Martin finally interrupts the chaos to lecture them on respect and the meaning behind hymns.

Scene 3: Maybe It Isn’t a Quartet after All

Rev. Martin welcomes them back, trying to mend the rift. He asks them each to share one good thing and one bad thing from their week. Ava talks about praying with a friend at the library (but getting shushed). Ashley jokes about ruining her new dress. Jacob brags about scoring in

gym—only for Tyler to remind him it was for the wrong team. Tyler admits to being bullied but quietly thanks the classmates who defended him. Rev. Martin praises their honesty, reminding them faith is about seeing the good even when things are bad. The teens listen, uneasy but more thoughtful.

Scene 4: Look in the Mirror

Rev. Martin is late. Ashley takes charge, asking why they even come to youth group. Ava passionately declares she comes to feel God’s love. Tyler shrugs that he’s just there because his family expects it. Jacob admits he only comes so he’s not left alone at home—but also because he hopes to see a friend, Brenda. Ava asks if they even pray at home, which they dismiss with sarcasm about blessing pizza. When Rev. Martin arrives, they tell him bluntly what they said. He listens quietly, deflated but grateful for their honesty, and reminds them that showing up—even without answers—is the first step.

Scene 5: I Do Have Faith in You

The next week, Rev. Martin divides them into teams for a debate on faith. Ava and Ashley try to make the case for trust in God, though Ashley is grudging. Tyler and Jacob push back, calling faith a gamble or even a lie we tell ourselves. Their arguments don’t resolve neatly, but they listen. Rev. Martin sums it up: faith isn’t a sure win or an easy answer. It’s choosing to give God a chance—even when the answer might be “no.” He thanks them for their honesty. As they leave, they’re a little quieter, a little closer, ready to keep talking.

Song: Help My Unbelief (*read responsively and/or music played from the collection*)

Verse 1 (Leader)

I do believe, though fear remains,
My heart still trembles in its chains.
But even doubt, if brought to You,
Can open doors for mercy through.

Chorus (Audience)

Help my unbelief, O Lord,
Speak where silence has endured.
Hold my hand through shadow’s breath—
Faith can rise from what is left.

Verse 2 (Leader)

I’ve prayed and hoped, I’ve tried to stand,
But still I fall, still need Your hand.
So if my trust is torn in two,
I’ll bring the pieces back to You.

Chorus (Audience)

Help my unbelief, O Lord,
Speak where silence has endured.
Hold my hand through shadow’s breath—
Faith can rise from what is left.

Bridge (All)

You never asked for perfect light,
Just hearts that whisper through the night.
And still You come, with patient grace,
To meet me in this fragile place.

Final Chorus (All)

Help my unbelief, O Lord,
Speak where silence has endured.
Even now, I cling to Thee—
Help me trust what I can’t see.

Reflection: Faith doesn’t erase doubt—it welcomes it. In this play, five very different people struggle to say why they even bother showing up. They find something real: community that doesn’t require perfect belief, only the willingness to be present. As we watch them wrestle with questions we often hide, we’re invited to ask our own—and to believe that God meets us in those questions with hrace.